
Tomoko Morikawa. *The Emergence of 'History of Iran': Historiography in Qajar Iran*

Akihiko Yamaguchi

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- 1 How did the “history of Iran” emerge in Qajar Iran? Premodern Persian historiographic literature generally presented a universal history; but, the author argues, a new historiography appeared in the late 19th century. It was mainly driven by the advances made in Iranian studies in Europe and their decisive impact on the elite and intelligentsia of Qajar Iran. Iranians started accepting the results of European research (archeological surveys and the decipherment of ancient epigraphs). For Iranian intellectuals of a nationalist stripe, this research proved the continuity running through the country's history since the pre-Islamic times. To maintain the unity of a nation sharing a common language (Persian), they began seeing their country as the homeland of Aryans. They thus developed a unique historiography, which attached more importance to ancient Iran and pre-Islamic emperors.

AUTHORS

AKIHIKO YAMAGUCHI

University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo